

Message

From: Bacalan, Vince [Bacalan.Vince@epa.gov]
Sent: 6/4/2019 8:41:11 PM
To: Karina Johnston [kjohnston@santamonicabay.org]; Tom Ford [tford@santamonicabay.org]; Heather Burdick [hburdick@santamonicabay.org]
CC: Yelensky, Erica [Yelensky.Erica@epa.gov]; Jennifer Hecker [JHecker@chnep.org]
Subject: RE: ACTION: SMBNEP staff next steps before call on June 5

Thanks for sharing this with everyone, Karina. Talk to you all shortly.

Vince

From: Karina Johnston <kjohnston@santamonicabay.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2019 3:18 PM
To: Bacalan, Vince <Bacalan.Vince@epa.gov>; Tom Ford <tford@santamonicabay.org>; Heather Burdick <hburdick@santamonicabay.org>
Cc: Yelensky, Erica <Yelensky.Erica@epa.gov>; Jennifer Hecker <JHecker@chnep.org>
Subject: RE: ACTION: SMBNEP staff next steps before call on June 5

Hello Vince et al. – please find answers to the questions below in blue. We're happy to discuss them on the call to provide additional detail, if needed. Thank you for the opportunity to provide follow up information. We look forward to speaking this afternoon.

Karina Johnston

From: Bacalan, Vince <Bacalan.Vince@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2019 1:12 PM
Subject: ACTION: SMBNEP staff next steps before call on June 5

Hello Tom, Karina, and Heather,

The PE site visit is fast approaching. I'd like to ensure that our 1h call next week is well spent and resolves any remaining items prior to us meeting in person.

1. Please share a draft agenda of site visit for review, prior to the call.

Below, please find a summary DRAFT agenda. We will discuss more details on the phone:

- Monday (6/17): Travel Day
- Tuesday (6/18):
 - *Morning:* Palos Verdes Peninsula Field Visits and SCMI Abalone Laboratory
 - Lunch
 - *Afternoon:* NEP Program Evaluation Briefing
- Wednesday (6/19):
 - *Morning/Early Afternoon:* Santa Monica Mountains and Malibu Coastline Field Visits
 - Lunch
 - *Late Afternoon* (3-6pm): LMU and Coastal Research Institute Tour
- Thursday (6/20):
 - *Morning* (9:30–12): Governing Board Meeting
 - *Afternoon:* Community Engagement Programs and Milton Street Site Visit
 - *Late Afternoon:* NEP Program Evaluation Debriefing
- Friday (6/21): Travel Day

2. Responses related to outstanding items from the PE report (below). Please indicate if submitting prior to the call or discussing during the call.
 - a. Performance Measures
 - i. On page 2 under Financial Management, the NEP talks about a Finance Plan currently undergoing a revision.
 1. ***Is a copy of an existing Finance Plan included in the attachments? If not, please provide a pdf or a link.***

The last formally adopted Finance Plan was outside of this PE review period (2006), thus it was not attached as a file to the PE documents relevant to the review period. Additional efforts by TBF and SMBRC were conducted from 2010 through 2013 to review and provide recommendations to various finance strategies, but no final amendment or adopted finance plan was developed. SMBNEP is currently undergoing a major revision to the Finance Plan and has a draft framework that will be discussed briefly at the next Governing Board meeting and brought for input and review to future Governing Board meetings. We would like to discuss this item further on the call, if needed.

- ii. On page 26 under Assessment and Monitoring, the 2 bulleted items are missing from your responses related to Monitoring (see page 18 of PE Guidance).
 1. ***Brief responses can be in an email or reference(s) to a section in the document, if captured elsewhere already.***
 2. ***Is a copy of an existing Monitoring Plan included in the attachments? If not, please provide a pdf or a link.***

The last formally adopted Comprehensive Monitoring Program (CMP) was outside of the PE review period (2007), thus it was not attached as a file to the PE documents relevant to the review period. Summaries of Assessment and Monitoring expectations and references to documents and monitoring efforts are captured in the Performance Measures Worksheets pages 23-26. SMBNEP is currently undergoing a major revision to the CMP, with the efforts currently led by the TAC and several other scientific advisory groups. The last major assessment of the status and trends of the ecosystems in the SMBNEP study area was conducted in 2015 and released with the State of the Bay Report (Attachment/Deliverable 37b). This report included a full assessment and revision of the major habitat types within the NEP study area, a re-evaluation of indicators, as well as inclusion of many new sources of data that had not previously been captured. The 2015 State of the Bay Report captured that process in detail as well as providing a new trend tracking set of metrics/visualizations. Another State of the Bay Report is planned for 2020, after the CMP revision is complete (end of 2019). See also monitoring reports and monitoring plans associated with individual projects throughout the PE documents (e.g., LAX Dunes, Attachments 21 a-c; SaMo Beach Restoration, Attachments 30a, 30d-f; Kelp Forest Restoration, Attachments 18a-o; others). We would like to discuss this item further on the call, if needed.

- b. Workplan Narrative
 - i. ***Was monitoring after the Arroyo Sequit Fish Passage project determined that this was a successful effort?***

Yes, monitoring conducted after the completion of the fish passage project showed success. The elimination of two instream Arizona crossings and installation of above ground bridge structures changed the physical profile of the creek to remove fish passage barriers, allowing federally endangered Southern Steelhead Trout to access upstream extents. Additionally, the project removed a check dam upstream, opening a total of approximately 4.5 miles of creek for Steelhead Trout and other fish and aquatic organisms. Two Steelhead Trout were observed in 2017, post-restoration, in upper Arroyo Sequit Creek. However, in late 2018, the Woolsey fire burned most of the vegetation and caused sedimentation within the Creek. Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains has plans to excavate several refugia pools in the upper section of the Creek (where the upper crossing was removed) this summer (2019). While vegetation and sedimentation have been affected by the Woolsey fire, TBF has yet to determine the full extent of impacts in the Creek. Continued monitoring will inform post-fire effects on the restoration project. Additional topographic (cross-section) surveys are planned for 2019.

Thanks and have a good weekend,
Vince